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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 28 October 1997, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Busacca ..... (Italy)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 105: Advancement of women (*continued*)

Agenda item 106: Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17

1. **Ms. Msuya** (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17 entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" on behalf of the States Members of the Organization that were members of the Group of 77 and China, and of Afghanistan, Austria, the Netherlands, Mexico, Spain and Turkey. Even though the Institute had been established more than 20 years previously, much still remained to be done to achieve equality, development and peace for the majority of women. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus in order to permit the Institute to fulfil its mandate.

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.19

2. **Mrs. Lacanlale** (Philippines) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.19 entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" on behalf of Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Philippines, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Portugal, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia. Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Ireland and Peru had also joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution highlighted the continuing concern of the international community over violence against women migrant workers and the need to protect and promote their well-being and rights.

3. She wished to propose the following amendments: in the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "stressing" should be replaced by "recognizing"; in the third line of paragraph 3, the word "including" should be inserted between the words "migrant workers" and "through" and, consequently, the word "including", which appeared after "cooperation" in the fourth line, should be deleted. Also, the article "the" should be inserted before the word "innovative" in the fifth line of the paragraph.

Agenda item 102: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/56, A/52/57-E/1997/4, A/52/60-E/1997/6, A/52/80-E/1997/14, A/52/183, A/52/328, A/52/351; E/1997/103 and E/1997/104)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.12

4. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.12 entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century" contained no programme budget implications.

5. **Mrs. Lacanlale** (Philippines) said that the words "interested non-governmental organizations" should be inserted after the word "Governments" in the first line of paragraph 8. The following States had joined the list of sponsors: Algeria, Iceland, India, Israel, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine.

6. **The Chairman** said that the following States had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution: Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Ireland, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and San Marino.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.12, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.*

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/295, A/52/327, A/52/357, A/52/413 and A/52/447-S/1997/775)

Agenda item 104: International drug control (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/127, A/52/296, A/52/336, A/52/347, A/52/413, A/52/447-S/1997/775 and E/1997/48)

8. **Ms. Wronecka** (Poland) said that the President of Poland had presented to the General Assembly the previous year a proposal for the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, an initiative which had received massive support from Member States. It was time for the international community to take active measures to stop the spread of transnational crime and to increase cooperation in that field. The best mechanism for promoting future international collaboration was effective and well-constructed legislation that was implemented with due firmness and determination. That was why Poland wished to see the process of elaboration of an international convention on that subject given momentum now and the draft text successfully finalized. Poland was ready to cooperate with other States to extend the scope of the convention, if such an extension would meet the needs and expectations of Member States. She was convinced that the convention proposed by Poland would by no means affect the value or interfere with the application of existing legal instruments, since it was based on the experience of bilateral

and regional agreements and conventions concerning crime prevention and the fight against crime.

9. The Government of Poland was grateful for the cooperation of all Member States in the preparation, negotiation and adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session of the draft resolution sponsored by Poland on the question of the elaboration of an international framework convention against organized transnational crime, as well as the work done by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in that field. She was of the view that a substantial part of the legal preparations should be done at Vienna, after which the text of the draft convention should be transmitted to the General Assembly for final adoption. With the active participation of all members of the international community, the common endeavour should commence and conclude in the near future. The Government of Poland intended to organize and host an intergovernmental expert group meeting in January 1998 to elaborate a preliminary draft convention, taking into account the resolution concerning the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and the annexes thereto.

10. **Ms. Romulus** (Haiti) said that it would be more productive to address the issues of international drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice as a whole. It was therefore important to increase collaboration between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

11. Haiti's geographical situation in the Caribbean region made it a transit point for drug trafficking. Despite its shortage of resources, however, it had achieved notable results in its fight against the growing threat of drug trafficking. There had been exchanges with the Dominican Republic and the United States of America and Haiti and the United States had concluded agreements, including one on cooperation which was designed to put a stop to drug trafficking. The agreement had enabled Haitian and United States coastguards to seize large quantities of drugs. A restructuring programme had also been put in place for Haiti's coastguard service in order to strengthen the latter's operational capacity. Haiti received aid from the United States and Canada to implement such projects. Haiti was also involved in an initiative by the Caribbean Community to mount an extensive regional campaign to eliminate the scourge of drugs in the area.

12. Haiti had not, however, managed to avoid the criminal activity that very frequently went hand in hand with drug trafficking and increasingly took the form of organized crime; until recently the latter had been unknown in Haitian society. In addition, the deportation of Haitian immigrants to their country of origin because of criminal activity or illegal immigration created a climate of insecurity in the country, which itself was a threat to democracy. The deportation of undesirable elements considerably aggravated an already fragile situation and made it difficult for the Government to achieve its objectives. The Government was concerned to see that the number of persons deported to date amounted to some 10 per cent of the numbers in the new police force, and it had intensified its efforts to control the return of Haitians. Various measures had therefore been recently adopted to deal with the problem.

13. Her delegation believed that States should collaborate more extensively on judicial, police and customs questions, particularly at the regional level. In order to win the war against the production, trafficking and illegal use of drugs it was necessary to establish a programme focusing specifically on the drug problem. Otherwise continued drug trafficking would put the very foundations of civilization in jeopardy.

14. **Mr. Arda** (Turkey) said that his country, as a State Party to all three Conventions on international drug control, considered drug smuggling a crime against humanity. It was well aware that money derived from drug trafficking was the main source of funding for transnational criminal organizations and, in particular, many terrorist groups. Turkey had the will to fight the problem by reducing both supply and demand, while also concentrating on rehabilitation programmes for addicts.

15. Turkey, a traditional poppy grower, had applied the unlanced method in poppy straw cultivation since 1974, a system that prevented diversion to illicit channels. However, because of its geographical location Turkey was extremely vulnerable to drug trafficking. On one side lay a large consumer market and an advanced chemical industry producing the necessary chemical inputs for illegal production; the other side was close to regions which had the potential for the illicit production of raw materials for clandestine laboratories. In 1996, law enforcement agencies had confiscated more than 18 tons of illicit drugs destined for markets and more than 42 tons of chemical precursors going to clandestine laboratories. That same year Turkey alone had apprehended 64 per cent of the illicit heroin confiscated in Europe, or 40 per cent of the total amount of heroine confiscated worldwide in 1996. Without international cooperation and exchange of information that level of success would not have been possible.

16. His country participated actively in all United Nations activities relating to international drug control. In the technical field it cooperated with the United Nations

International Drug Control Programme. It strongly supported the efforts of the International Narcotics Control Board to introduce control mechanisms in the export of chemical precursors to prevent such chemicals being channelled into the illicit production of drugs. The Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors was an important instrument providing a region-specific perspective and approach in the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse, while at the same time contributing to similar efforts by the international community. Turkey also actively participated in the work of the Council of Europe and the Economic Cooperation Organization. In addition it had concluded some 40 bilateral cooperation agreements with other countries.

17. Turkey viewed the special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs as an opportunity for not only taking stock of past achievements but also contributing practical measures to concerted efforts in the international fight against the problem.

18. With regard to agenda item 103, his delegation welcomed the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which were being referred, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly for adoption. A new law on measures against money-laundering had been enacted and Parliament was preparing to criminalize violence against women.

19. With regard to the fight against organized transnational crime, his delegation believed that any convention on the topic should take into account the evident links between organized crime, on the one hand, and terrorism and illicit trafficking in arms, chemicals, nuclear material and human beings, on the other. Lastly, his delegation was ready to contribute to making a success of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and expressed its appreciation to the countries which had offered to host the Congress.

20. **Mr. Hamida** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders were effective in promoting the priority objective of all Member States to combat organized crime and its international manifestations such as illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering. International cooperation in the fight against organized crime should be based on a commitment to comply with the relevant international instruments. Yet certain powerful States were insisting on applying their own rules to specific matters already regulated by recognized norms of international law. Such failure to comply with existing instruments called into question the usefulness of drafting new instruments, especially if only the weakest countries pledged to comply with them.

21. Therefore, his delegation believed that it should be determined whether the new instrument under preparation was consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, whether all States could participate in its preparation, and whether the view of the majority of States could be reflected therein so that its universal ratification would be an attainable objective. Furthermore, extradition treaties should be concluded at the bilateral level and should be consistent with the laws of the States concerned. States were responsible for applying their own laws and the norms of international law to their citizens and in their territories.

22. His delegation found the current situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) deplorable. Given the importance of the Institute's work for African States, the United Nations should continue to support it.

23. Illicit drug trafficking was one of the most dangerous offences because of the serious impact it had on people and society. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs. His Government was opposed to any attempt to use the fight against illicit drug trafficking as an excuse for interfering in a country's internal affairs in order to further political agendas. Measures should be taken to neutralize drug-trafficking groups. Consumer States should do their utmost to reduce demand, and the international community should provide the requisite support to drug producers for crop substitution.

24. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) said that his delegation was perturbed at the affirmation in the introductory statement by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention that large-scale illicit opium cultivation in South-East Asia was concentrated in Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar wished to reiterate unequivocally that, like other Governments of the region, it was irrevocably committed to the total eradication of the opium poppy in the country.

25. Since independence, Myanmar had been in the forefront of the war against illicit drugs; it considered that war to be both a national and international responsibility. In the past 10 years alone, nearly 800 soldiers had died and over 2,000 had sustained injuries in the relentless war that the Myanmar Armed Forces had waged against drug traffickers. In that connection, it was regrettable that certain

countries accused the Government of Myanmar of inaction with respect to the eradication of drugs. In 1993, his country, together with China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to expand and strengthen cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs and to ensure the continuation of consultations among the Governments of those countries and UNDCP. Cambodia and Viet Nam had signed the Memorandum two years later. His Government had also entered into agreements in that field with Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam, and a mechanism had been set up amongst those countries and UNDCP for effective cooperation in various drug control activities.

26. Ever since the colonialists had introduced the poppy plant into the northern region of his country in the nineteenth century to finance their opium wars in China, Myanmar had been fully aware of the menace of narcotic drugs. During the colonial era, the people, the Buddhist clergy and United States Baptist missionaries had strongly opposed the brazen opening of opium dens; prior, opium had only been used as a medicament for timber elephants. The Government and people of Myanmar would use the resources available in their unwavering efforts to rid the country's border areas of the opium poppy forever.

27. **Mr. Saliba** (Malta) said that Malta's geographic location exposed it to various types of transnational criminal activity. The financial might of transnational criminals, coupled with Malta's limited capacities to stop their activities, threatened the economic and fiscal system and the maintenance of law and order in the country. In order to combat transnational criminality, his country had entered into bilateral agreements with Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt, Cyprus and Israel and had begun negotiations to that end with Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco. Furthermore, Malta was negotiating a comprehensive framework of bilateral security cooperation with the European Union whereby a standing mechanism for consultation and coordination on problems such as drugs, contraband and illegal migration would be established.

28. At the cost of countless innocent victims, the international community was losing the war against the drug barons. Governments must present a united front against the drug scourge, which was threatening not only the lives of human beings, but also the economic, social and environmental habitat throughout the world. Malta, which believed that the United Nations system was uniquely equipped to coordinate the fight against drug trafficking, welcomed the recommendation to merge the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs into a single office.

29. The international seminar organized in Malta by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration discussed how police forces in the Mediterranean countries, Europe and the United States of America could collaborate in the fight against drugs. Malta's strategy was to develop and implement a balanced drug policy by strengthening the agencies involved in the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and by implementing effective demand reduction programmes that would address the real needs of both the general population and specific target groups. Of particular importance were the drug prevention programmes for school children.

30. Legislative provisions had been enacted by Parliament to amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. The amendments provided for life sentences for the most serious cases of drug trafficking; 10-year sentences for other cases and mandatory prison sentences for those convicted of the trafficking in, cultivation or importation of drugs; confiscation of the property of convicted drug traffickers and pre-trial financial investigations; and the characterization of money laundering as an offence. The new national drug intelligence unit would incorporate the relevant sections of the police force, customs department and the armed forces to ensure more effective coordination of their work.

31. At the international level, Malta's contribution to the work of foreign organizations active in the fight against drug trafficking was significant. It was one of 19 countries which contributed to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, whose ambitious goals could be achieved only with the generous contribution of Member States. Finally, the Government of Malta hoped that the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the question of drugs would be another opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its political commitment and translate words into positive action.

32. **Mr. Pashayev** (Azerbaijan) said that Azerbaijan attached great importance to the convening of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the question of drugs and fully supported the preparatory activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, particularly the organization of two informal open-ended inter-sessional meetings devoted to the issues of the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of stimulants, the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in illicit drugs, cooperation among law enforcement agencies and money laundering.

33. Since the restoration of its independence, Azerbaijan had been faced with the social, medical, psychological and legal impact of illicit drug trafficking, a problem that was the legacy of the former Soviet Union. Among the factors which contributed to the abuse of and illegal trafficking in drugs were the existence of a million refugees and internally displaced persons, high levels of unemployment, a decline in living standards and the geographic location of the country, which was situated between Asia and Europe. The occupation of a 132-kilometre-long section of Azerbaijan's border with the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Armenian armed forces created possibilities for the flow of drugs to European countries. Furthermore, the favourable climate for the cultivation of drug-containing plants was one of the factors that encouraged the production of synthetic drugs within the local chemical industry.

34. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the President of Azerbaijan had signed a decree aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the fight against illicit drug trafficking. To that end also, a State commission headed by a deputy prime minister had been established and a national programme elaborated to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking up to the year 2000. Eight drug abuse clinics and 60 anti-drug laboratories were currently functioning in Azerbaijan. In addition, specialized drug-enforcement departments and services had been set up within the framework of police organizations. Steps were also being taken to strengthen border controls.

35. Azerbaijan had signed bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in fighting crime, including illicit drug trafficking, and had acceded to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It was currently considering the possibility of acceding to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

36. The thirty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East had been held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, in spite of all the social and economic problems with which the country was faced. The meeting had adopted the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, which had then been submitted to the Economic and Social Council for forwarding to the General Assembly in 1998. At the same time, for the successful implementation of its national programme, Azerbaijan needed the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and of other relevant international bodies and donor countries so that its customs, police and other authorities could be provided with the equipment and professional skills needed to combat illegal drug trafficking.

37. Azerbaijan also wished to reiterate the important role of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime and the need to elaborate an effective international convention against that type of crime. It therefore supported the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its decision that the Organization should hold the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Azerbaijan, which in 1994 had expanded by decree the legislative basis for combating organized crime, was in need of expert and advisory assistance as part of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. It was also interested in receiving assistance for the elaboration of national legislation and for further improving its criminal justice system on the basis of existing international norms.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.